

MONTANA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
December 29, 2003 – Telephone meeting

The Montana Transportation Commission met via conference call on December 29, 2003 to review staff recommendations regarding project contract awards following the December 18 bid letting. The meeting was called to order at 3:02 pm with the following participants: Chairman Sheill Anderson, Vice Chair Nancy Espy, and Commissioners Dan Rice and Meredith Reiter, MDT Director Dave Galt, Chief Counsel Tim Reardon and Chief Engineer Joel Marshik. Lorelle Demont served as recorder.

The Commission reviewed the recommendations provided to them by Director Galt this morning:

Project STPP 51-3(3)60 **Sidney-West** received four bids. There were no errors or omissions in the low bid which was 11.33% under the engineer's estimate. Staff is recommending award to Wickens Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$7,135,189.20.

Project BR 83-2(11)59 **Goat Creek – 20 km S Swan Lake** received 6 bids. There were no errors of omissions in the low bid. The low bid was 0.29% under the engineer's estimate. Staff is recommending award to Frontier-West LLC in the amount of \$719,430.80.

Project BR 566-1(5)4 **Bridge Creek – 7 km SW Ashland** received 11 bids. There were no errors of omissions in the low bid. The low bid was 22.06% under the engineer's estimate. **Bid alternate 2 was chosen.** Staff is recommending award to Martin Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$293,932.82.

Project STPU 5206(7) **NW Bypass lighting – Great Falls** received 4 bids. There were no errors of omissions in the low bid. The low bid was 31.23% under the engineer's estimate. Staff is recommending award to Scott Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$111,637.47.

Project CM 5299(46) **Traffic Signals – Telemetry – Great Falls** received 3 bids. There were no errors of omissions in the low bid. The low bid was 44.28% under the engineer's estimate. Staff is recommending award to Scott Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$44,538.40.

Project IM 15-2(74)122 **Rocker Scale Site** was pulled from the letting.

Espy made a motion to accept staff recommendations to award 5 of the 6 projects bid upon; Anderson seconded.

Marshik – we have a hard time justifying the bid set forth on the **Oswego – E & W project**, NH 1-9(38)573. We received four bids on this project. The low bid, tendered by Border States Paving, Inc., was 24.36% over the engineer's estimate, which is outside our guidelines for award. Staff recommends holding the project and following the process outlined in department management memo 02-01. We have made contact with their office but have not been able to speak to the necessary parties yet.

Reiter – is there a lack of gravel in the area?

Marshik explained that the project is located on the Fort Peck Reservation. At the pre-bid conference, we pointed out one gravel site we had helped identify. It was not mandatory to use the site but all the bidders did. There is a lot of uncertainty on the reservation now with a new government and also some unemployment issues. Border States Paving bid \$26.72 per cubic meter on the gravel which is very high, even considering the haul distance. We're trying to find out what's involved in their bid.

The commissioners agreed to delay the decision on whether or not to award this contract until more information is available. A conference call will be scheduled within the next two weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Shiell Anderson, Chairman
Montana Transportation Commission

David A. Galt, Director
Montana Department of Transportation

Lorelle Demont, Secretary
Montana Transportation Commission